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Agenda item74 (r)
General and complete disarmament

Nuclear disarmament*

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/33 T of 20 November 2000, entitled "Nuclear disarmament", in paragraph 17 of which it requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The present note is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. The Secretary-General recalls the commitment made by world leaders at the United Nations Millennium Summit held in September 2000 to "strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons" and the agreements reached by the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in May 2000 on the "practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts" on nuclear disarmament as well as the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. Nevertheless, the pace of implementation of these declarations remains disappointingly slow. It is important that the international community take the necessary steps to achieve progress in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

3. Arms control and disarmament agreements play an essential role in the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. Strengthening such agreements and thus making further progress towards nuclear disarmament require actions at all levels. Several multilateral agreements still await either their entry into force or their effective implementation and their universality. There is also concern about the future of some important arms control and disarmament agreements.

4. The Secretary-General remains concerned at the continuing impasse in the Conference on Disarmament, notwithstanding the proposals put forward by delegations to agree on a programme of work to deal with the most pressing issues in the field of nuclear disarmament and other issues. He calls upon all the Member

* Finalization of the report was dependent on the outcome of the 2001 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

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States of the Conference to further enhance their efforts to overcome the divergence of views so as to allow the Conference to reach solutions on the outstanding issues and to ensure that the credibility of the Conference, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body, is reinforced.